

ART 31 ANDT

10088934107088934

JC Rec'd PCT/PTC 08 MAR 2002

CLAIMS

Translation into English of the Annex to the IPER

1. A device for packaging products which might flow, including at least one flexible pouch (10, 10') which is of a generally flattened shape and which has two opposing walls (11, 12) in sheet form extending approximately parallel to a longitudinal median plane (P) of the device, characterized in that it consists of:
- 5       • at least two flexible pouches arranged the one following the other so that the walls of the pouches are aligned along a direction at least as approximately perpendicular to said median plane (P), the walls of two adjacent pouches of the unit being fixed together by means (C') such as one or more lines of adhesive,
  - 10       • two reinforcement elements (21,22 - 21',22') respectively associated with two respective pouch walls, said reinforcement elements extending at least approximately opposite each other all the way across their associated pouch wall, -
  - and means (C) for fixing each reinforcement element to its associated pouch wall at least in a median area of the wall,
  - the two reinforcement elements extending on either side of the device,
  - 15       approximately symmetrically relative to said longitudinal median plane (P) and the rigidity of said reinforcement elements being greater than that of the walls of the pouch or pouches in order to make it easier, after the two respective lateral ends of each of said reinforcement elements have been moved closer together in said median plane (P) so as to distort these reinforcement elements such that their respective
  - 20       median parts move away from each other, to open the pouch or pouches once its (their) upper part(s) is (are) torn.
2. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that it includes a single pouch (10) the two walls of which are associated with the two respective
- 25       reinforcement elements.
3. The device according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that projections in the longitudinal median plane of the device of the lateral edges of the pouches are offset relative to each other.
- 30
4. The device according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that the pouches are of different widths.
5. The device according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that
- 35       the means (C) for fixing each reinforcement element to its associated pouch wall also

EU098493925US

fix together integrally the reinforcement element and its associated wall in the vicinity of its lateral edges.

5       6. The device according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that the means (C) for fixing each reinforcement element (21, 22) to its associated pouch wall include bonding the reinforcement element of said wall.

10       7. The device according to the previous claim, characterized in that the reinforcement elements and the pouch walls are bonded together at discrete bonding points.

15       8. The device according to claim 6, characterized in that the reinforcement elements and the pouch walls are bonded together by at least one continuous adhesive strip deposited between each reinforcement element and its associated wall.

      9. The device according to the previous claim, characterized in that said at least one continuous adhesive strip extends approximately all the way across said wall.

20       10. The device according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the means for fixing each reinforcement element to its associated pouch wall include adjustments to the wall, which can comprise folds or excess thicknesses.

25       11. The device according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that the lateral ends of the reinforcement elements are connected so as to surround the lateral edges of the pouch or pouches.

30       12. The device according to one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the lateral ends of the reinforcement elements are not connected.

      13. The device according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that the lower ends of the reinforcement elements (21, 22) are connected by a base (23) located under the pouch or pouches.

35       14. The device according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that the reinforcement elements (21, 22) extend all the way up the pouch or pouches.

15. The device according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that the upper ends of the reinforcement elements (21, 22) are connected by a top (24) covering the pouch or pouches.

5        16. The device according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that the reinforcement elements (21, 22) include means which engage (210, 220) to re-cover the top of the pouch or pouches once their upper parts have been torn, in order to close the device.

10        17. The device according to the previous claim, characterized in that said covering means of the pouch or pouches include a tab (210) made from the same material as one (21) of the reinforcement elements, to engage with a slot (220) of the other reinforcement element (22).

15        18. The device according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that the reinforcement elements are printed on both their faces.

19. The device according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that the reinforcement elements are made of cardboard.

20        20. The device according to any one of the previous claims, characterized in that at least one reinforcement element includes a tear line (L) along a desired path for opening the device, extending opposite the means (C) for fixing the pouch walls and the reinforcement elements so as to guide the user in tearing the pouch walls.

25        21. The device according to the previous claim, characterized in that each pouch comprises means (E) to weaken its walls, located at the same level as the tear lines of the reinforcement elements.

30        22. The device according to the previous claim, characterized in that the weakness points of the pouch walls are provided by notches (E) on its lateral edges.

23. The device according to one of the three previous claims, characterized in that said means (C') for fixing adjacent pouch walls are located opposite the tear lines (L) of the reinforcement elements (21', 22').

35        24. The device according to one of the four previous claims, characterized in that the means (C) for fixing the pouch walls to the reinforcement elements include

two lines of adhesive between each reinforcement element and its associated wall, said lines of adhesive being located on either side of the tear line (L) of the reinforcement element.

5           25. The device according to one of the previous claims, characterized in each pouch of the unit contains a different product.

26. The device according to one of the previous claims characterized in that distortion of the reinforcement elements is obtained by arching these elements.

10

27. The device according to one of claims 1 to 25, characterized in that distortion of the reinforcement elements is obtained by folding these elements.